

nor does it seek inclusion of section 151 in the defense authorization process.

Accordingly, I believe that section 151, coupled with two spectrum-related provisions within the Senate's Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (§§ 1049 and 1050 of S. 1060), may have a negative impact on telecommunications policy. The Commerce Committee will be active to ensure that the inclusion of any provision within the final version of a defense authorization bill not interfere or cause harm to telecommunications policy. I respectfully request that these concerns be taken into account during further consideration of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to comment on H.R. 1401, the Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2000.

CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OUTREACH FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS PROGRAM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I support funding grants to 1890, 1862, and 1994 Land Grant Colleges and Institutions to enhance the viability of small farmers by providing training and technical assistance in overall farm management practices. H.R. 1906 provides \$3,000,000 in funding for the program in fiscal year 2000, the same level as 1999 and provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer up to \$7,000,000 from the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Account for "Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers." However, I am concerned about the Department of Agriculture's track record in the delivery of this program to date.

Since the program was authorized by Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, the management of the program has been transferred to several agencies in the Department ending in the Office of Outreach under Departmental Administration since 1998.

USDA has not audited the program even though questionable fiduciary practices have surfaced, including two violations of the Antideficiency Act in 1996. In addition, in 1998, the USDA's Office of Outreach coordinated \$4.8 million in cooperative agreements with other USDA agencies for small farmer outreach training and technical assistance with the same universities and colleges that have received funding under the Section 2501 authorities.

I believe USDA should carefully review the funding and management requirements for the program and take appropriate action to ensure that eligible farmers and ranchers receive full benefit and that the American taxpayers' funds are being well spent.

For the record, I am submitting copies of the Antideficiency Act notification letters and respectfully request they be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JUNE 17, 1997.

Hon. FRANKLIN D. RAINES,
Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: As required by OMB Circular Number A-34, section 32.2, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reporting to the President, through your office, two violations of the Antideficiency Act with respect to USDA's Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary.

JUNE 17, 1997.

Enclosure.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This letter is to report two violations of the Antideficiency Act, as required by section 1351 of Title 31, United States Code.

Both violations occurred in the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program account (1260601) of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The program was transferred from Rural Development to FSA on October 1, 1995, under the Department of Agriculture's reorganization. The violations occurred on August 15, 1996, and August 27, 1996, and involved the obligation of funds which exceeded the amount available in the fiscal year (FY) 1996 appropriation for the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program. Officers responsible for the violations were Carolyn B. Cooksie, Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs and John I. Just-Buddy, Chief, Economic Enhancement Branch, FSA.

The violations occurred with the awarding of cooperative agreements by program officials which obligated \$100,000 to South Carolina State University and \$25,414.24 to Langston University. The agreements obligated funds exceeding the amount available in the FY 1996 appropriation for the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program because the program managers erroneously assumed, based on informal advice they requested from FSA budgetary staff, that unexpended funds from the expired FY 1993 appropriation were available for new agreements. Program officials were unfamiliar with budget and fiscal terminology and procedures, and the FSA budget staff misunderstood the program manager's request regarding fund availability. The violations were identified in time to prevent the actual expenditure of funds in excess of the appropriation.

There is no evidence that anyone knowingly or willfully violated the law. Thus, no disciplinary action has been taken.

An adequate funds control system for FSA is in place. Officials responsible for these antideficiency violations have been counseled to verify the availability of funds prior to entering into future cooperative agreements.

The Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program was transferred to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on October 1, 1996. NRCS has been provided a copy of this letter.

Identical letters will be submitted to the presiding officer of each House of Congress.

Respectfully,

DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER
JIMMY DIMORA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Jimmy Dimora, on the occasion of his being honored for his twenty-eight years of service to the Cuyahoga County community.

Jimmy Dimora is a dedicated public official who has contributed a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of his community. He is especially committed to maintaining ties to labor organizations and helping the working men and women in the community. He has held a variety of public offices, ranging from Mayor of Bedford Heights to the Commissioner of Cuyahoga county. In addition to his service as a dedicated public official, he has devoted much of his time to community initiatives. Some of this activities Commissioner Dimora has been involved with include: a member of the Board of Trustees for the University Hospitals Health System Bedford Medical Center, and leadership rolls in the United Way, Shoes for Kids and the YMCA. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party since 1994.

Although his work and community service put extraordinary demands on his time, Commissioner Dimora has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest his family especially his lovely wife, Lori.

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Commissioner Jimmy Dimora for his lifetime of dedication, service, and leadership in Cuyahoga County. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of this significant contributions he has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Commissioner Jimmy Dimora.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM SELKE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now recognize Mr. Jim Selke, who after 31 years of dedication to educating the students of District 51 in Grand Junction, Colorado, has decided to retire. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary career of this remarkable individual, who for so many years, has worked to shape the minds of the youth of Grand Junction, and who has worked to preserve a high standard of education.

Mr. Selke began his career in Grand Junction, Colorado at Central High School in 1968, and for 24 years he served in various capacities, coaching football and baseball, and serving as activities coordinator. After his years of inspiring the students of Central High School, Mr. Selke was ready to return to the classroom.

For the past 7 years, Jim Selke has served as the athletic director for Palisade High School. There is no doubt that his positive attitude and uplifting words of encouragement will